

Appn No. 09/607,985
Amdt. Dated August 03, 2004
Response to Office action of June 07, 2004

4

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application has been assigned to Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd (Assignment Real/Frame No. 010908/0860, recorded on June 30, 2000). The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Silverbrook et al. (US Patent No. 6,447,113). The present application and the cited patent are commonly owned by Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application and the cited patent define patentably distinct different inventions. The Examiner's consideration of the rejection in light of the following comments is respectfully requested.

The invention disclosed in the cited patent is directed to a system for printing on both surfaces on a sheet of print media. Each print engine includes an inkjet printhead on opposite surfaces of the print media (see fig. 1). The Examiner refers to, in large part, figs. 18 and 30. However, CCP 180M and CCP 180S, although linked by inter-CCP interface 314 each have a printhead interface 192 to a separate printhead 143. The separate printheads 143 are located on opposite sides of print media to enable double sided printing.

In contrast, and referring by way of example to present claim 1, the claimed "print engine/controller" is configured to be coupled with "an ink drop printhead". Thus, the plurality of print engine/controllers coupled together drive a single printhead. This is further highlighted by reference to the term "strip" as used in the claims. In claim 1, it is required for "a printhead interface to output the composite strip to a printhead" this refers to the printhead interface communicating only with a strip segment of the single printhead. Other printhead interfaces communicate with other strip segments of the same printhead. A strip of the single printhead corresponds to a vertical strip on print media.

The other independent claims 6, 8 and 11 each require these same limiting features of a single printhead controlled by multiple print engine/controllers with multiple printhead interfaces each communicating only with a strip of the single printhead.

Thus, this allows multiple copies of the same print engine controller chip to drive a multi-segment printhead, each responsible for a strip of a page, synchronised from a master chip. This allows significantly increased printing speeds to be achieved. In contrast, in duplex or double sided printing, to which the cited prior art document is directed, speed of printing on a single side of the page is not increased as no use of multi-segment strip printing is used. The only increase in printing speed in the cited patent relates to printing on two sides of a page simultaneously. The cited patent is not directed to and is silent on the inventive notion of using printing engine/controllers coupled with a single printhead to control printing of strips on a page to increase printing speed. Driving a single printhead from multiple chips can also be advantageous to produce wider pages, faster prints, higher input resolution or combinations of all three. Such advantages are not possible with the invention disclosed in the cited patent relied upon by the Examiner.

The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

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5

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 USC 102(e). The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance of all the claims presently under examination.

Very respectfully,

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